

**STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.9(f) & 1.27 (c)) - SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN**

Applicant or Patentee: Jeffrey S. Haggard et al.

Application or Patent No: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: Herewith

Title: Method and Apparatus for In-Line Splitting of Plural Component Fibers and Formation of Nonwoven Fabrics

I hereby declare that I am

- the owner of the small business concern identified below:
- an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below:

NAME OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN: Hills, Inc.

ADDRESS OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN: 7785 Ellis Road
West Melbourne, Florida 32904

I hereby declare that the above identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR 121.12, and referenced in 37 CFR 1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby declare that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention described in:

- the specification filed herewith with title as listed above.
- the application identified above.
- the patent identified above.

10005 ASA 01 079154 b39A SSA

If the rights held by the above identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights in the invention must file separate statements stating their status as small entities, and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person made the invention, or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d), or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern or organization, other than the concern identified above, having any rights in the invention is listed below:

- no such other person, concern, or organization exists.
- each such other person, concern or organization is listed below.

Fiber Innovation Technology, Inc.
398 Innovation Drive
Johnson City, TN 37604

Separate statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention stating their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this statement is directed.

NAME OF PERSON SIGNING Arnold E. Wilkie

TITLE OF PERSON IF OTHER THAN OWNER President

ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING 7850 S. Tropical Trail, Merritt Island, Florida 32952

SIGNATURE Arnold E. Wilkie DATE 3/31/00

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- the patent identified above.

10005 84A 01 0791739 D20A SSA

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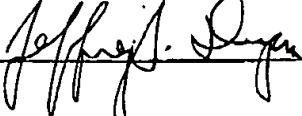
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NAME OF PERSON SIGNING Jeffrey S. Dugan

TITLE OF PERSON IF OTHER THAN OWNER Vice President, Research

ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING 109 Fishery Loop Road, Erwin, Tennessee 37650

SIGNATURE  DATE 4/7/00